

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims ~~1~~, ~~8~~ and ~~10-18~~, without prejudice, and insert claim 27 as presented below in amended form:

sub C1
7B 27. (Amended) A method of modulating expression of a target nucleic acid comprising administering into the alimentary canal an effective amount of an oligonucleotide comprising a 2'-O-alkyl or 2'-O-alkoxyalkoxy modification wherein said oligonucleotide hybridizes to said target nucleic acid, and modulates expression thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 10-18, 27-29, and 31-33 are pending in this patent application. Claims 1, 8, 10-18, 27-29 and 31-33 stand rejected. Claim 27 was amended. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, on page 3 of the specification as originally filed. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 8 and 10-18. After entry of the amendment, claims 27-29 and 31-33 will be pending.

For the Examiner's convenience, on April 26, 2001, Applicants provided additional copies of previously submitted references: AE, AG, AH, AI, AO, AS, AT, AU, BA, BM, BX and CD. Applicants included a replacement copy of the PTO Form 1449 with the response filed January 16, 2001 and request the Examiner to return an initialed copy of same with the next communication.

Claims 1, 8 and 10 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 5,789,573 to Baker *et al.* ("the Baker patent"). Claims 10-16 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine